



# NEWS RELEASE

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## ***Self-Help Housing Families In Junction City Move Into Their New Homes***

***45 Families Reside in New Junction City Homes Completed with Agency's Program***

**Junction City, KS** – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks and City officials welcomed five more Junction City families into their new homes during ribbon cutting ceremonies held on April 26<sup>th</sup>. The five families are the latest participants to construct their own homes under the Agency's *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program*.

"Supporting critically needed economic development opportunities for Kansas is directly tied to increasing the availability of affordable housing. USDA Rural Development helps over 7,000 rural Kansans annually to secure either individual homeownership or multi-family housing residency. Junction City continues to play a vital role in serving the Agency's single family and multi-family loan program customers. Homeownership is an important first step to enjoying personal economic prosperity," commented State Director Banks.

In all, 45 new homes, representing over \$3.7 million in home ownership loans provided by the Agency, have been constructed by families in Junction City who have participated in this USDA housing program. The ceremony also included the groundbreaking for an additional four homes. The four homes represent the first phase of construction for seven more homes planned under the City's Mutual Self-Help Grant, financed by USDA Rural Development.

Dan Pfizenmaier, Junction City Self-Help Housing Manager said, "I am continually amazed on how much this program helps people get a break in life to get on their feet to have a better life. I am so proud of them. We are especially impressed with the families' willingness to do whatever it takes to get these homes built. All of them have had to learn new skills, but they have banded together heart and soul to finish all the homes and to provide a quality product. The construction process can sometimes be long and many times the work is more difficult than they thought it would be, but they didn't quit. The Self Help families continue to support each other throughout the building process and will become good neighbors. In addition to the fine homes that have built, they have also built strong personal bonds and will be friends for a long time."

Following the ribbon cutting ceremonies, ground was broken for four additional homes to be completed by the end of this year. The next round of construction will feature a total of seven homes. Self-Help Housing of Junction City serves as one of USDA Rural Development's technical assistance partners across the state for the *Mutual Self-Help Housing Program*. Junction City has administered this USDA program since July 2002, helping to provide increased affordable housing opportunities to many very low to moderate income residents.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for rural Americans. As a venture capital entity, USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development has delivered over \$1.2 billion for Kansas covering all Agency programs, supporting well over \$6 billion in future economic development for the Sunflower State.

**USDA Rural Development – *Committed to the future of rural communities***

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